

# THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877



**LIFTING PRAISE** — The Combined Choir from eight Mississippi Baptist churches, joined by the William Carey University Chorale and the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra, perform during the October 28 evening session of the 2014 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. The choirs represented were First Church, Flora; First Church, Jackson (including Student Choir and Orchestra); First Church, Magee; First Church, Newton; First Church, Madison; McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl; Oakdale Church, Brandon; and Wynndale Church, Terry. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## 179th Mississippi Baptist Convention

### First African American elected as MBC officer

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Messengers to the 2014 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Oct. 28-29 at First Church, Jackson, made history when they elected the first African American to serve as a convention officer.

Larry Young, pastor of Spangle Banner Church, Pace, was chosen as second vice

president over Chas Rowland, pastor of Bovina Church, Bovina, in the only contested race for a convention office. Young was accorded a standing ovation when his election was announced. Vote totals were not disclosed.

Matt Buckles, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, was elected unopposed to a second term as

see CONVENTION on p. 9



**NEW OFFICERS** — Mississippi Baptist Convention officers elected Oct. 28-29 by messengers to the 2014 annual meeting of the convention in Jackson are (from left) Jerry Bingham, assistant recording secretary and missions director for Benton-Tippah Association, Ripley; Larry Young, second vice-president and pastor of Spangle Banner Church, Pace; Matt Buckles, president and pastor of First Church, Vicksburg; Gary Wyatt, first vice-president and pastor of North Morton Church, Morton; and Michael Weeks, recording secretary and pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch.

## Houston mayor withdraws sermon subpoenas

**HOUSTON (BP and local reports)** — Subpoenas for sermons and personal papers from five Houston (Texas) pastors have been dropped after openly lesbian Mayor Annise Parker backtracked on her insistence the subpoenas go forward.



PARKER

Subpoena has been lifted against the Houston Five, as the pastors came to be known, warnings continue of a broader threat to religious liberty.

"If we have a single person, or two, who have positions of authority who can take away the voting rights of a million, we no longer live in a constitutional republic," said Dave Welch, one of the subpoenaed ministers, on a local radio show Oct. 30.

Welch was referring to a petition drive disqualified by city attorney Dave Feldman, a Parker appointee, that would allow voters to repeal HERO. The ordinance, adopted by the city council in May, provides civil rights protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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A lawsuit has been filed charging Feldman with vio-

lating the city charter by dismissing thousands of signatures on the repeal initiative. The signatures already had been certified by city secretary Anna Russell.

After enactment of the ordinance, opponents initiated the petition drive, submitting about 31,000 signatures — nearly 14,000 more than required to qualify for a referendum. Feldman, however, disqualified enough of the signatures to prevent a citywide vote.

In response, HERO opponents filed suit, seeking to gain court approval for a referendum. A court hearing is scheduled for January. The subpoenas, as defended by Parker

see SUBPOENAS on p. 9

### Inside this issue

Directions	4
Sunday lessons	11
Editorial	2
Biblio	3
How to a Christian	9
Review	11
Home	11
Just	12
Class	5

**Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archive**  
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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Honor our veterans

**O**n Tuesday of next week we will observe Veterans Day, an annual nationwide tribute to America's military veterans. They are our sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, and beloved friends, and the country has not always appreciated their efforts. However, we are free today because of their sacrifices.

As our Armed Forces struggle in our stead even today against the forces of tyranny and enslavement that are so often grounded in religious fanaticism and would take away our freedoms — not the least of which would be our freedom of worship — it is therefore fitting to follow the example of our forebears and pause to remember the people involved in securing those freedoms.

Problem is, Veterans Day for many Americans has become just another day to take off work and immerse ourselves in some self-absorbed activity, while giving little thought to the day's significance. It shouldn't be that way, so perhaps a brief history of this important observance is in order. The following is condensed and paraphrased from the web site of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of World War I.

In November 1919, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades



and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Public Law 380, passed by the U.S. Congress in June 1954, changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor veterans of all the country's wars. Veterans Day is observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls, and remains a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

• • •

In our spoiled, materialistic culture of today, we have forgotten too much of our history.

We take too lightly the sacrifices of our veterans and their families. Too many of us are too far removed from such sacrifices ourselves to really appreciate what they have done, and are doing, for us. Super Bowl Sunday is a bigger event now. Whiny basketball stars are our heroes. A prime tee time is more important than attending a Veterans Day ceremony. Slathering barbecue sauce on the ribs weighing down our fancy grills is a higher priority than stopping for a few minutes to honor our veterans.

Christians, of all people, should be ashamed to act that way. If not for the sacrifices of these men and women throughout the history of our country, we would have no freedom to worship God in openness and without fear. We would be severely limited in our ability to evangelize the world (if we could do so at all). We would be defenseless and persecuted everywhere.

War is not God's best for us, and He surely grieves every loss caused by mankind's ultimate inhumanity. As long as there is evil in this world, though, there will undoubtedly be armed conflict and warriors will be called upon to defend our freedoms.

May we never take them for granted.

## We've been put on notice

**B**ased on nothing but a decent imagination, I believe Houston (Texas) Mayor Annise Parker was surprised at the blowback she received for her administration's effort to intimidate pastors who have spoken against that city's ordinance giving preferred status to homosexuals.

Houston's mayor is one of our current crop of liberal politicians who sincerely do not understand religious liberty. To these leaders, we have the freedom to worship in the privacy of our homes and church buildings, but our freedom to live as transformed people in our weekday life is more inconvenient to a pluralistic culture.

Freedom of worship makes more sense to them than actual religious freedom. It seems we have been Mirandized — read our rights.

So how do we prepare? How do we behave wisely in an age when unpopular sermon topics are reasonably seen as actionable by some public officials?

**Be wise as serpents.** One thing that can make trouble for us is foolish talk. Can you adopt the discipline of speaking in email, social media, prayer meetings, sermons, and Sunday School lessons in a way that you'd be willing to see it in the public record? It is part of the public record and available to those who do not like what you stand for. This wisdom is James' counsel in James 3:1.

**Carefully draw your lines in the sand.** We all need convictions but sometimes boast of too many — more than we'll actually stick to. Avoid boasting of more courage than you have as Peter did in John 13:37. Think about your priorities. Which of your beliefs are more important than your wealth, comfort, physical freedom, or even your life? The list will likely be pretty short. Stand on those.

**Be innocent as doves.** 1 Peter 2:20 says there is a difference between suffering for the Gospel and suffering because we forgot or refused to pay our taxes. Not everything is a conflict over religious liberty. Peter and John refused to stop preaching in the face of threats from the



**Guest opinion**  
with Gary Ledbetter

authorities, but they didn't disdain law and courtesy generally.

**Be at peace with all people, if you can.** Some of us love a fight and others fear it above all things. Both the bellicose and the irenic among us must stifle the urge to always respond as we prefer, with a fist or a hug, as the case may be. Peace with others should be our intent, not at all costs but in most cases.

**Pray God's best on would-be enemies.** That's not the same as praying that they will get what they want or succeed at what they attempt. We should be careful about praying those things for anyone. God's best may be conviction, judgment, or prosperity.

Those determined to oppose righteous things you do, by the way, cannot make you hate them. They can hate you, but you have the power in Christ to love them.

The current situation in Houston is not the big test of our era, I predict. It's startling to see the disdain of public officials expressed toward Christians in Houston, but this is an early birth pang.

To me, it's a warning to get my own house in order — to consider the trials of those like imprisoned pastor Saeed Abedini in Iran even as that situation seems remote. If persecution intensifies in the U.S. or if it does not, we are foolish to be too comfortable or feel too safe in a world that hates our Lord and His righteousness.

This is not our home, and we are blessed to be reminded of that.

*Ledbetter is editor in chief of the Southern Baptist TEXAN, newsjournal of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and former editor of the Indiana state Baptist newspaper.*

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**LOOKING AHEAD** — J.D. Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., addresses attendees at The Gospel, Homosexuality and the Future of Marriage conference on Oct. 29 in Nashville. (BP photo courtesy of ERLC)

## Southern Baptists take on tough issues at ERLC summit

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Evangelical Christians should graciously and truthfully minister to homosexual people while also pursuing a family reformation, speakers said Oct. 29 in the final session of a Southern Baptist-sponsored conference in Nashville titled, The Gospel, Homosexuality and the Future of Marriage.

Baptist educators and leaders in the movement to strengthen and protect marriage addressed attendees, who totaled more than 1,300 registrants for the first national conference of Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

Christians need not adopt the two-option narrative — "affirmation or alienation" — offered by American culture in regard to homosexuality, J.D. Greear told the audience in the closing address of the three-day conference. Instead, he said, Jesus provides another alternative "full of grace and truth" that calls for courageous proclamation of God's Word and compassionate outreach to human beings.

"As believers, as Christians, we have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality, which means that our relationship with them must not be contingent upon their agreeing with us about sexuality," said Greear, lead pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. "It means that when they disagree with us we don't push them away."

Greear offered nine ways Christ's teaching in the Gospels shows how "Jesus-representing churches" can minister with "grace and truth" to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Such churches, he said, will:

- Be known as the friends of the LGBT community.

- Not stigmatize sexual sin.
- Put forward God's design for sexuality, not merely condemn its aberrations.

- Begin with a call to repentance.

- Not be bullied into silence.
- Preach the possibility of sexual-orientation change but acknowledge that may not happen in this life.

- Present the multi-faceted beauty of the Gospel in dealing with sexual sin.
- Not fear suffering for Christian confession.

- Not make sexual ethics, but the Gospel, the center of their message."

Sexual ethics, Greear told the audience, "should not be central or dominant in our message. His cross should be."

The Christian call for repentance should not focus exclusively on homosexuality, he said. "Our message is not simply, 'Stop your sexual sin.' Our message is, 'Behold your God,' because it is amazement at God's love for us that delivers us from all the lesser attractions."

He also said, "If what the Bible says about homosexuality is true, how can it be loving not to tell them?"

Greear apologized for the failure of Christians, including himself, to stand up to abuse and injustice toward those in the LGBT community.

"I think the question for us as church leaders is: Have you drawn the gay and lesbian community close?" he said. "Are you their friends? When you find out someone is gay, how interested are you in them as a person beyond their sexuality? Do you see them primarily as gay and lesbi-

an or do you see them primarily as people created in the image of God just like you but with gay and lesbian desires? ... Would gay and lesbian people feel loved to be in your home?"

Jason Allen, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., said the biggest shift in parenting is "not only filtering" but of "interpreting culture in light of God's Word."

Allen, a member of a panel discussing the preparation of next-generation leaders for a "post-marriage culture," pointed parents to the church. "Don't underestimate the formative power of the local church, and have your family deeply immersed in the local church," he said. Over 10-20 years, children in the church are "being formed holistically by the people of God."

Steven Smith, vice president for student services and communication at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, told the audience, "We have to avoid the persecution complex... wearing our feelings on our sleeves. The Gospel is bigger than that."

Ryan Anderson, an expert on marriage and religious freedom at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., addressed the clash between "sexual freedom and religious liberty."

"Government ultimately should respect the rights of all citizens," he said. "And a form of government that's respectful of free association and free contracts and free speech and free exercise of religion would protect citizens' rights to live according to their beliefs that marriage is a union of a man and a woman. After all, protecting religious liberty and rights of conscience doesn't infringe on any one's sexual freedom."

## Arrests of Christian leaders, others in Iran a 'serious blow'

**ISTANBUL, Turkey (BP)** —

In what was deemed an effort to silence house-church leader Behnam Irani, Iran has sentenced him and two other Christian leaders to six years in prison for their involvement in house churches, human rights groups have learned.

Irani, Abdolreza Ali-Haghnejad, and Reza Rabbani, all leaders in the Church of Iran, were sentenced Oct. 19 for "action against national security" and "creating a network to overthrow the system."

Human rights defenders say are catch-all terms the Islamist government uses to suppress Christians and political opponents it perceives as threat.

The sentence was "a serious blow" for the family of Irani, lead pastor of the group, a pastor in direct contact with members of Irani's family said. When the verdict was handed down, Irani was already serving a prior five-year sentence for his involvement with house churches.

Irani's wife Kristina is resolute in her faith and in her devotion to her husband but needs prayer, said the pastor, who cannot be identified for security reasons. Irani won't be eligible for release until 2023, according to Middle East Concern (MEC).

As part of their sentences, the three Christians will be transferred from their current locations to other prisons in remote areas around the country, according to human rights groups. Ali-Haghnejad and Rabbani were to be transferred within days to Minab Prison on a remote island in the Persian Gulf. Irani was to be transferred to Zabol Prison on the Afghanistan border.

Charges were leveled against Irani in part because he contacted family members and others by mobile phones that were smuggled into prison, Rob Duncan, a researcher at MEC who specializes in Iran, said. The sentence amounts to a form of exile to

put him "out of the way" from any support networks or family, Duncan said.

"He was certainly contacting people, and they basically want to remove him as far away as possible from opportunities for visits," Duncan said.

Jason Demars, president of Present Truth Ministries, an evangelical group that works in Iran, agreed with Duncan's assessment.

"Basically they want to silence them — they want to move them away to a place that is tough to get to, for their family to get to," he said. "With no one on hand to know what is going on, it's easier to mistreat them."

Once he is transferred, Irani's wife will have to take a two-day bus ride to see him.

Demars said there are other concerns about the prison selected for Irani.

"This prison that Behnam is going to be transferred to is on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, so it's a place that is filled with drug dealers and drug smugglers who are bringing opium into the country over the border of Afghanistan," he said. "It's an extremely dangerous place."

The three converts from Islam had originally been charged with "Moisid-felarz" or spreading corruption on earth, which carries the death penalty. Those charges were reduced on Oct. 2, according to MEC.

Demars said the capital charges were filed and then reduced as part of a ploy by the Iranian government to avoid international scrutiny for the six-year sentences that followed.

"The Iranians are chess players," Demars said. "They always pride themselves that they play chess, so I believe they were bringing these higher-level crimes in order to make it more digestible that they gave a six-year sentence, and also to test the waters on how the international community would respond to these types of charges."

"Basically they want to silence them — they want to move them away to a place that is tough to get to, for their family to get to. With no one on hand to know what is going on, it's easier to mistreat them."

Jason Demars  
president of Present Truth Ministries

The summer had come and gone and we were easing into the cooling down phase of the fall. I'm always interested not just in the change of the seasons but the changing of location. For so many of our feathered friends, Mississippi is one of the interstate highways for so many migratory birds headed from up north to their long journey across the Gulf. It is a beautiful thing to watch so many species of birds coming through, many of them with gorgeous colors on display and others just unique because of their size, shape or song. Two types of birds get my attention more than all the rest of them put together - the hummingbirds and the large, Canada geese. I love the hummers who come and stay and are attracted to the feeders I put out all summer long. And then one day, generally in September, they and all their buddies who come to join them in their flight across the Gulf are gone. The Canada geese on the other hand come in waves of Vs and Ws headed south. In clusters they stop at ponds and lakes and feeding places to get all loaded up with nourishment for the big flight ahead.

The pond near my neighborhood seems to be a place of good feeding and safety and attracts a number that spend a little time with us and move on, except for one guy this year. I watch these beautiful big birds and am fascinated with how they eat and protect each other and are able to fly. But in this migration season I noticed one who was obviously injured. He limped to one side and his wing seemed to be bent upward and so I tried to investigate closer to see what his problem was. And though I could not get very close, I could see there was a real dilemma. This goose had a broken wing. Immediately my desire was to try to help him. As you might expect, he was not open to my offers. I spoke softly, tried to explain to him that I would not harm him at all but I would help him. He was not a trusting soul. He limped away faster and probably in pain and though I stopped, he kept moving as quickly as he could to get near the water and in the water and away from me.

He could swim pretty good but he even



**Directions**

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## A Broken Wing

limped some when he swam. Day after day it was the same. I would try to gently approach him and he would with great determination get away. Almost every day the thought was a reoccurring one in my mind. It's hard to help a goose when the goose doesn't want to be helped. At one point I thought how dumb geese are but almost in the same moment thought well, they're just like us. For so often people will want to help people but the people needing help don't want to be helped. They are not dumb. They're just not real sure about those who are offering to help.

I diagnosed this goose's problem early on and as time wore on I was more confident than ever that my diagnosis was right on target that he had a broken wing. Anybody seeing him a time or two would know that he's the goose with the broken wing. He became the topic of conversation around the neighborhood and all of us knew he had a broken wing. Invariably the conversation would turn to how did he break his wing. Nobody knew but there were a number of theories about how he got in that condition. Somebody had shot him and not killed him but broke his wing. I would say that the majority of people that is that you don't have to understand how a person got into the condition they are in, what you need to know and what I need to keep in mind is that God wants to do something in their life so that the miracle of God can take place in their life.

None of us knew, but that is a major piece of being a human being. For we have always got to find out, how did you get in the shape you're in? It's a common form of discussion among most of us and surely in spiritual circles we all want to know, how did that guy or that gal get in that shape? It was the topic of discussion by the disciples whenever they found the man who was born blind (John 9). Jesus healed him. You remember the disciples wanted to discuss, how did he get into this shape? Did he sin or did his parents sin? That's a fascinating thing to stop and contemplate because the man's parents could have been living a wicked life and in the minds of many disciples God would zap them and give them a child with a handicap. More interesting is the fact that they said that he sinned. He was born blind so when is this sin going to take place that got him in this mess? Can you sin when you're being formed in your mother's womb, or they thought there's reincarnation and that he had messed up? What were they thinking? But Jesus pointed to something greater, more significant, and that is that you don't have to understand how a person got into the condition they are in, what you need to know and what I need to keep in mind is that God wants to do something in their life so that the miracle of God can take place in their life.

You and I need to share His saving, healing, restoring grace. That is the point of the apostle Paul when he writes in Galatians 6:1 and says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Whatever that fault might be, if you've messed up, blown it, broken it and you're in a terrible situation with a broken wing, the need is for somebody to come and help or as the verse says, "Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one." You and I are the people God called to help the ones with a broken wing because somebody helped us when we were flopping around. Ultimately, God Himself alone can help us, but He has so many of His servants ready to join in and lift or carry or walk with those whose wings are broken.

I think of the one that was left at the pond with the broken wing. All of his friends had gone on but still he needed help, and you and I can be one of those ready to respond and help. One lady who is always feeding the ducks made sure there was plenty of corn just for this one with the broken wing. Others loved and reached out, talked and called to see what might could be done, pretty much to no avail, but they cared. And whether you know it or not, if you live long enough, you will experience it, that caring goes a long way in life.

Next time you go to church just look around over the congregation and you probably will see birds in that flock who have a broken wing and need somebody who will care. Better yet, before you leave home to go to church, pause for a minute and look in the mirror and recognize that there have been significant times in your life when you were the bird with a broken wing and you needed help. You are God's chosen servant to, in some way to somebody today, do what the Scripture says when it says, "Bear ye one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2). Help your brother or sister who has a broken wing and so fulfill the law of Christ.

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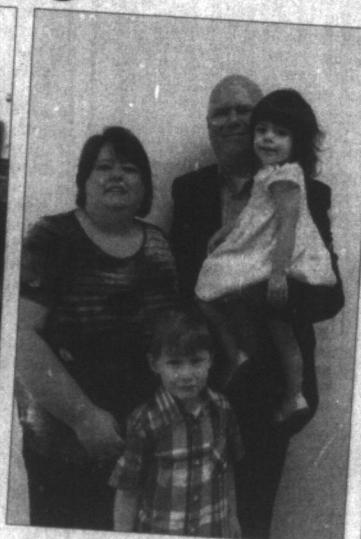
## Staff Changes



**SCOTLAND CHURCH, CARROLL-MONTGOMERY ASSOCIATION**, has called Jonathan Parker as pastor. He is shown with his wife Rebecca and their children, Jonathan Jr., Micah, Frances, Beaux, and Hunter.

### In other Staff Changes:

► **Evansville Church, Coldwater**, has called Albert Wilkerson as pastor. He is married to Jeanette King Wilkerson and they have two sons, Greg (Jennifer, two children) and Jeff (Jenna, one child.)



**TRINITY CHURCH, LAUREL**, has called Joseph Walters as minister of music, effective Oct. 19. He is shown with his wife Ginger and children, Joshua and Ella.

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Clue: E = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Colossians 1:21

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

The best way to treat lung cancer is early.

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, and Baptist wants you to know that even if you're a lifelong smoker, there is still time to quit. In fact, quitting can cut your chances of lung cancer in half. Look for local support groups or talk to your doctor about ways to quit. And get better with Baptist.

 BAPTIST CANCER CENTER  
 baptistcancercenter.com

Get Better.

# Oregon death with dignity law used in patient's suicide

**PORLAND, Ore. (BP)** — Terminally ill cancer patient and right-to-die advocate Brittany Maynard ended her own life Nov. 1 at her Portland, Or., home by taking a lethal prescription administered under Oregon's Death with Dignity Act.

"Today is the day I have chosen to pass away with dignity in the face of my terminal illness, this terrible brain cancer that has taken so much from me... but would have taken so much more," was Maynard's Facebook post on the day she died.

"The world is a beautiful place, travel has been my greatest teacher, my close friends and folks are the greatest givers. I even have a ring of support around my bed as I type... Goodbye world. Spread good energy. Pay it forward!"

The 29-year-old died in her bed at home 11 months after being diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme. Her oncologist told her in April she had about six months to live.

Maynard had described her pending death as a relief, aimed at avoiding the disease's symptoms that would have included loss of bodily functions. Already, she suffered seizures and extreme headaches and neck pain.

"I can't even tell you the amount of relief that it provides me to know that I don't have to die the way that it's been described to me that my brain tumor would take me on its own," she said in a Brittany Maynard Fund video. "I hope to enjoy however many days I have left on this beautiful earth and spend as much of it outside as I can surrounded by those I love."

"I hope to pass in peace. The reason to consider life and what's of value is to make sure you're not missing out. Seize the day. What's important to you? What do you care about? What mat-



"I understand she may be in great pain, and her treatment options are limited and have their own devastating side effects, but I believe Brittany is missing a critical factor in her formula for death: God."

**Joni Eareckson Tada**  
 author, disability advocate  
 and quadriplegic

ters? Pursue that, forget the rest."

Many Christians and pro-life advocates had discouraged Maynard's decision. "I understand she may be in great pain, and her treatment options are limited and have their own devastating side effects, but I believe Brittany is missing a critical factor in her formula for death: God," wrote author, disability advocate and quadriplegic Joni Eareckson Tada in a Religion News Service article.

"The journey Brittany — for that matter, all of us — will undertake on the other side of death

is the most important venture on which we will ever embark. So it must not be disregarded or brushed aside without thinking twice about the God who alone has the right to decide when life should begin and end."

Right-to-die advocates will likely use Maynard's story to promote their cause, pro-life attorney and euthanasia expert Wesley Smith said after Maynard's death.

"Expect suicide advocates to now use her death to stoke emotions even higher around the assisted suicide debate," Smith told Lifeline.com. "But emotionalism is the last approach that should be taken in pondering such a radical, culturally transforming agenda and the threat legalized assisted suicide poses to the most weak and vulnerable among us."

"But, of course, I am saddened," Smith said. "Who wouldn't be? Her cancer and death, if the report is accurate, are a terrible tragedy. I wish her husband, family, and friends nothing but the best."

In 1977, Oregon became the first U.S. state to establish aid-in-dying laws and has since been joined by Washington, Vermont, Montana, and New Mexico. In Oregon, Washington, and Vermont, the patient must take the fatal drug themselves, but Montana and New Mexico laws allow assisted suicide.

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## Just for the Record



**CRESTVIEW CHURCH, PETAL**, baptized four believers Oct. 5. Shown are Paul Smith, Colon Wade, Genesis Lunford, and Lauren Touchstone with pastor Steve Smith.



**OAKDALE CHURCH, BRANDON**, recently ordained Allen Boyd as deacon. Shown are pastor Rick Henson with Boyd and Debbie Boyd.



The GA's of **BETHANY CHURCH, POTTS CAMP**, toured the Baptist Children's Village Farrow Manor campus. The group took supplies raised during WMU's Christmas in August project. Donald Worsham, pastor.



Children from **FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, were challenged to raise \$200 for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, surpassing the goal by raising \$229. Shown are some of the children and leaders. Jay Anderson, pastor.

### In other Church News:

► **Goss Church, Columbia**, will host its 11th annual Blessing of the Hunt Nov. 13 at the Columbia Expo Center. Steve Chapman, featured speaker. Doors open 5 p.m. and admission is free. For more information call (601) 736-9563.

► **New Sight Church, Brookhaven**, is sponsoring a Fall Quartet Festival Nov. 8, 4 - 8:30 p.m., featuring The Stephens Family, Hunter May, Adams Call, The Revelations, and Mark Lanier. Love offering.

► **First Church, Pearl**, is hosting the 61st annual Pre-Thanksgiving Eve Gospel Singing Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m., featuring The Inspirations, Singing Echoes, Tim Frith & Gospel Echoes, Revelations, Mike Vaughn, and Jason Runnels. For tickets and information, call (601) 906-0677 or 720-8870.

► **First Church, Madison**, women's ministry is presenting Patty Roper, Managing Editor of Mississippi Magazine, as speaker at the Holiday Highlights event Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m. Tickets, \$5 at the door, or available on [www.fbcmadison.org](http://www.fbcmadison.org).

► **First Church, Nettleton**, will host a Harvest Weekend Nov. 7 - 9; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; Jim Futral, Randy Bostick, and Tommy Vinson, speakers; Voices of Mobile, music Friday and Saturday.

► **Poplar Springs Church, Newton**, hosted the girls' softball team of Newton County High School for worship Oct. 12, followed by lunch.

► **South Nettleton Church, Nettleton**, will host the Erwin's, music, and Dennis Erwin, speaker, Nov. 6, 6 p.m.

► **Vaiden Church, Vaiden**, is hosting its annual Hunter's Harvest 2014 5:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Vaiden High School gym. Free meal and door prizes. Steve Chapman, speaker. For more information call (662) 614-2547.



**CORINTH CHURCH, HEIDELBERG**, held a dedication service for their new youth room Oct. 12 in memory of Clyde (Buster) Walters, deacon and youth Sunday School teacher. Shown are Jamie Matthews, Sharon Walters, Harry Walters, Margaret Walters, Jesse Walters, and Frances Walters.



**MIDWAY CHURCH, LUCEDALE**, elected and ordained three deacons Aug. 24. Shown are pastor Phillip Snodgrass, Gerald Scott, Todd Tanner, and Rich Pope.



**WEST END CHURCH, WEST POINT**, licensed Brad Creely and Steve Collins, III, to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor Chris Layton, Creely, and Collins.



**NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH, SUMMIT**, ordained Justin Fuller and Chris Wells as deacons Oct. 26. Shown are chairman Barry Lomax, Fuller, Wells, and pastor Rick Kennedy.

## Just for the Record



**WANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO**, fed the high school football team at a recent home game. Pastor Lee Falter led a devotional at the meal.



The GA's of **UNION CHURCH, PEARL RIVER COUNTY**, recently collected over \$1500 for the Global Hunger Relief Fund.



The GA's of **LEESBURG CHURCH, MORTON**, collected the most canned food for missions and won a pizza party.



**EAST PHILADELPHIA CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA**, licensed Ryan Gardner to the gospel ministry. Shown are Gardner and associate pastor to students Rusty Parsons.



**SCOTLAND CHURCH, CARROLL MONTGOMERY ASSOCIATION**, honored interim pastor Walter Simmons for his service during the church's search for a pastor. Shown are Simmons and his wife Jewell.



**SUNFLOWER CHURCH, SUNFLOWER**, recently kicked off their fall revival with a barbecue cook-off. Shown are winners Bill Rose and Will Childs.



**PINEVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL**, ordained Clarence Sims as deacon Oct. 26. Shown are Sims and pastor Tim Nelson.



**CALVARY CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, honored pastor and wife, Millard and Melinda Moak, Oct. 19 as part of Pastor Appreciation Month.

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INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

# Mars Hill Church plans to disband congregations

**SEATTLE (BP)** — Mars Hill Church, the Seattle-based network of congregations founded by controversial pastor Mark Driscoll, will dissolve, sell all church assets, and encourage its 13 campuses to become independent congregations.

Dale Braswell, a Southern Baptist church planter in the Seattle area, told Baptist Press the dissolution is both sad and hopeful.

"It's sad seeing an organization like Mars that's reached so many people and done so much good working in the Seattle area dissolve," said Braswell, pastor of Lifepoint Church in Lynnwood, Wa., "but there's hope in the sense that a lot of new churches are going to be autonomously started. And, Lord willing, those churches are going to start churches ... and the impact can kind of continue."

By Jan. 1, each of Mars Hill's campuses must decide whether to become an independent self-governed church, merge with an existing church, or disband, according to an Oct. 31 letter posted on Mars Hill's website by primary teaching pastor Dave Bruskas.

As part of the transition plan, all Mars Hill properties will either be sold or the loans on the individual properties will be assumed by the new independent congregations. The church's corporate headquarters is listed for \$7.75 million while three other properties are for sale for a total of \$20 million, the Seattle Times reported.

All central Mars Hill staff members will be paid and then released from employment, and any remaining funds will be gifted to the new independent congregations, Bruskas

wrote. Then the Mars Hill Church organization will cease to exist.

The board of Mars Hill has concluded that rather than remaining a centralized multi-site church with video-led teaching distributed to multiple locations, the best future for each of our existing local churches is for them to become autonomous self-governed entities," Bruskas wrote. "This means that each of our locations has an opportunity to become a new church, rooted in the best of what Mars Hill has been in the past, and independently led and run by its own local elder teams."

Driscoll resigned from Mars Hill Oct. 14 after an internal church investigation found that he had been "guilty of arrogance, responding to conflict with a quick temper and harsh speech, and leading the staff and elders in a domineering manner," according to a letter from the church's board of overseers obtained by Religion News Service.

Beginning in August, Driscoll had taken a break from the pastorate and temporarily suspended speaking engagements and media interviews. Also in August, the Acts 29 church planting network which Driscoll founded removed him and Mars Hill from its membership.

At its peak, Mars Hill had 15 campuses in five states with some 14,000 attendees. The congregation does not cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"It's sad for Mars Hill the entity," Braswell said of the dissolution, "but in the scheme of God's Kingdom, I think there's always hope because Jesus promises us that the church is not going to be defeated."

"It's sad for Mars Hill the entity, but in the scheme of God's Kingdom, I think there's always hope because Jesus promises us that the church is not going to be defeated."

Dale Braswell

Southern Baptist church planter in the Seattle area



DRISCOLL

## College News



**BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE** recently received the Halbrook Award for academic achievement among athletes from the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities. With the award are BMC president Barbara Childers McMillin, student athletes Kati Prince from New Johnsonville, Tenn., Brian McDonnell from Corinth, and athletic director Lavon Driskell.



Tim Matheny (left), chair of the Department of Theatre and Communication and assistant professor of theatre at **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**, was named the university's 2014 Humanities Teacher of the Year by the Mississippi Humanities Council. Matheny presented a lecture, *The Power of Theatre: A Look into the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Theatre's Influence on Modern and Historical Societies*, at WCU on October 23. He is pictured with (right) Myron Noonester, dean of the Noonester School of Arts and Letters, and Jeanne Gillespie, secretary of the Humanities Council.



**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** student nurses Tony Hamilton, Courtney Watkins and Catie Carrigan are shown assisting at a health fair during the Mississippi Baptist Convention Oct. 28. They were among 34 MC seniors on hand to help at the annual meeting at First Church, Jackson.

### In other College News:

► Nathan Barber, a 1994 graduate of **William Carey University** and an educator with over 20 years of experience, recently published a new book, *What Teachers Can Learn from Sports Coaches: A Playbook of Instructional Strategies*. The book is a guide for teacher improvement based on wisdom of great coaches and is available now in paperback and e-book formats.

► Julie May, associate professor of biological sciences at **William Carey University**, recently published a cookbook, *Menu Musings of the Modern American Mom*. The cookbook includes 152 easy-to-follow recipes and has unique interactive features when paired with a smartphone or tablet that can scan QR codes.



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## SUBPOENAS

cont. from p. 1

and Feldman, were part of the city's legal preparations for the lawsuit.

If the legal action against the city fails to produce a referendum vote on the ordinance, the city charter does not allow for a second petition. The law will go into effect.

Andy Taylor, attorney for the lawsuit's anti-HERO plaintiffs, called Parker's an-

nouncement a "head fake," the Houston Chronicle reported. Parker should drop the city's defense of the lawsuit and put the ordinance to a vote, Taylor said.

"The truth is, she's using this litigation to try to squelch the voting rights of over a million well-intentioned voters here in the city of Houston," Taylor said. "It's very simple why we filed a lawsuit: Because they won't do what the city constitutional charter requires them to do."



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## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mcb.org).

## CONVENTION

cont. from p. 1

president. Gary Wyatt, pastor of North Morton Church, Morton, was elected unopposed to a first term as first vice president.

Both recording secretary Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Olive Branch, and Jerry Bingham, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley, were reelected without opposition.

Buckles was nominated by Thad Moore, pastor of First Church, Coffeeville. The nomination was seconded by Kent Campbell, pastor of Woodlawn Church in Vicksburg.

Joe Abel, missions director for Leake Association in Cartage, nominated Wyatt. The nomination was seconded by Reggie Williams, missions director for Scott Association in Forest.

Young was nominated by Clarence Cooper, pastor of Brandon Church, Brandon. The nomination was seconded by Rick Henson, pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

Rowland was nominated by Shannon Davis, pastor of Beulah Church, Lexington. The nomination was seconded by Michael Wilbanks, pastor of Thaxton Church, Thaxton.

Messengers approved a 2015 Cooperative Program budget of \$31,284,567, a decrease of one percent over the 2014 budget. John Pace, budget committee chairman, presented the budget. Among the highlights are a one percent increase for Southern Baptist causes, a two percent increase for the Baptist Children's Village, and a 4.6% increase for the Board of Ministerial Education.

Four resolutions were approved by messengers, including:

■ appreciation to First Church, Jackson, for hosting the annual meeting, along with



**BIVO PASTOR RECOGNIZED** — Don Williams (right), pastor of Crossview Church, Brandon, is recognized Oct. 29 as Bivocational Pastor of the Year during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. Making the presentation is Steve Stone, associate executive director for church growth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

thanks to the speakers, singers, instrumentalists, and convention president Matt Buckles.

■ the family as "the basic unit of human society."

■ gender identity, affirming "God's good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not one's self-perception."

■ the state flag, which was originally presented as a motion but was transferred by messengers to the Resolutions Committee.

Committee chairman Darby Combs, pastor of Bethel Church, Brandon, presented the report. Due to space limitations in this issue of The Baptist Record, resolutions will be published in their entirities in the November 13 issue of the newspaper.

Buckles preached the President's Address. Mark Vincent, pastor of Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preached

the Convention Sermon. Don Wilton, pastor of First Church in Spartanburg, S.C., preached the Closing Message.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presented the convention board emphasis. Herb Reavis, pastor of North Jacksonville Church in Jacksonville, Fla., presented the Bible Treasures series of devotionals.

Messengers accepted the report of the Time, Place, and Preacher Committee that the 2015 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be held Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson, with David Eldridge, pastor of First Church, Clinton, preaching the Convention Sermon and Phil Walker, pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Madison, serving as alternate. Committee chairman Jim Phillips, pastor of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, presented the report.

## Truth is not relative.

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in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins  
and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the  
grave to forgive my sins and to restore  
my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.  
From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship  
with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church  
for spiritual guidance.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director  
PO. Box 27  
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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with thanks and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### JULY 2014

#### MEMORIALS

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Ms. Judy H. Lacy  
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Mr. & Mrs. Estes L. Carwile  
Grady Norton  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Woolery  
Springfield BC, Lydia SSC  
Debby Norwood  
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries  
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James and Cynthia Wilkinson  
Mrs. Zela Ott  
Mrs. Dot G. Griffin  
Mr. Billy Parker  
James and Cynthia Wilkinson  
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Jerry Phelon  
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Mr. & Mrs. James H. Chase  
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Mrs. Alene Henderson  
Mr. Leon Robertson  
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Lavalle & Shirley Massey  
Dr. & Mrs. Brian Gray  
Jimmy W. Smith  
Miss Jayne Kathryn Denson  
Wayne Smith  
Mr. George R. Rea, Jr.  
Mrs. June Snowden  
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb



Thank you to 9 year-old Owen Makarson for sharing his birthday with the boys and girls at The Baptist Children's Village. Owen asked his friends to bring snacks and sports drinks for The BCV children rather than bring gifts to him. What a generous and kind young man!

Brenda Francine Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Prewitt

Janie Thomas  
Mrs. Mattie S. Zachry  
Lyle Earl Tillman  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tillman  
Mrs. Lorraine Tolar  
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Mrs. Nancy W. Wilbanks  
Martha Jane Mowdy Williams  
The James Gardner Family  
Ralph Gardner Family  
William Henley Family  
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### AUGUST 2014

#### HONORS

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Mrs. Lona M. Southerland  
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Maureen Clark  
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### AUGUST 2014

#### MEMORIALS

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Mrs. Alice Aughtman  
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## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).

## Faith Defined • Hebrews 11:1-7

Our passage for this lesson is an expansion/exposition of chapter 10:38-39. The next several verses gives a contextual definition of faith, provides examples of not "shrinking back" and a pedigree of the Old Testament Saints who stood firm in their faith.

**Faith Described (11:1-3)** "So faith has a dual perspective that could be simply summed up as looking forward (to the fulfillment of God's promises) and looking up (to the unseen reality of God's presence)." (Hebrews, EBC, France, 147) Let us be certain that we do not put a "prosperity" spin on this verse as the false teachers do. God is in no way speaking of material wants, He is speaking of the spiritual and eternal promises of God found in our High Priest, Jesus Christ. "Essentially faith is confidence that things yet future and unseen will happen as God has revealed they will. This is the basic nature of faith." (Hebrews, Constable, 104)

Verse 2 is preparing us for what he will say in upcoming verses. The "people of old" are none other than the Old Testament Saints. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. It takes faith to believe in the doctrine of

Creation, that God created the world and the universe ex nihilo (out of nothing) through only his word, speaking it into existence. And God said, "Let there be... and there was." Genesis 1:1-3 and logic seem to indicate that God did indeed create the universe, something visible, out of His word, something invisible. (Hebrews, Constable, 106)

**Faith Demonstrated (4-7)** Those portrayed in this gallery of faith may be classified into four historical periods: (1) antediluvian (vv. 4-7) - Abel, Enoch, Noah; (2) pre-Mosaic (vv. 8-22) - Abraham,

Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph; (3) Mosaic (vv. 23-29) - Moses himself; and (4) post-Mosaic (vv. 30-38) - Rahab and a more general reference to the many other heroes of faith, some named but mostly unnamed, of the succeeding generations. (Hebrews, Hughes, 453)

Abel did not "shrink back." He was murdered by his brother, Cain, after jeal-

ousy provoked his spirit over God's favorable acceptance of Abel's sacrifice. God's rejection of Cain's sacrifice always stirs a good discussion, but Hebrews helps us to grasp the true reason for the acceptance of Abel's. "While each offering was appropriate to their respective vocations, the biblical text states that 'The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.' God was pleased with Abel and his

sacrifice. For the author of Hebrews this, along with the following example of Enoch, is explained by the principle

that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6)." (Hebrews, O'Brien, Logos) Abel's faith also continues to live and inform us of its importance pertaining to God, And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks...and so shall we!

Enoch did not "shrink back." His life narrative is found in Gen. 5:21-24, where he is described as being taken up so he

would not see death and that he pleased God. I hear Paul's words in 2 Cor. 5:9, "Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him," and as the next verse will remind us, it is impossible to please God without faith. "Suddenly and supernaturally removed from this earthly existence, he was not anywhere to be found, thus providing evidence of the power of God to exalt a man without his first passing through the experience of death." (Hebrews, Hughes, 458)

Noah did not "shrink back." He built an ark at the command of God and looked like a fool to the rest of the world. "A worldwide flood? Really?" Many today still doubt the reality of the flood and the existence of Noah. Noah could not see the flood, yet had faith that God's Word was true and built the ark exactly the way he commanded and because of his faithfulness, Noah and his household survived the flood as the world was destroyed around them.

1 Peter 5:9, "Resist him and be firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

*Hazzard is pastor of Woodland Church, Columbus.*

## Overcome Hard Times • Genesis 41: 28-36, 46-49

In his recent blog, pastor Jay Cook was exulting in the fall season: "Don't you just love this time of year? The temperature is dropping, the days are getting a little shorter, and the leaves will soon be changing colors. When you walk outside, it is actually refreshing. Of course, we know why it's like this - God set the process in motion."

Seasons change. This time of year, God gilds the leaves with shade of copper, gold, and russet. In spring and summer, He adds splashes of vibrant hues to expanses of verdant green. In parts of the world, He spreads the barren wintry landscape with a shimmering coat of white.

In a similar way, our lives transition through changes. In his book, "The Seasons of God", Richard Blackaby puts it this way: "Everything in our lives has a season, an appropriate time - not in some random way but in a manner that's charged with purpose."

Joseph's life was no different. He experienced what must have seemed like a dry, purposeless season as he stayed behind bars in a dismal dungeon. Two years had passed since he'd asked a fellow prisoner (the chief butler, or "cupbearer") to remember him to Pharaoh when he was restored to his position. However, a season of change would soon materialize for the young prisoner - one that would definitely be "charged with purpose."

One night, Pharaoh's sleep was disrupted by two dreams, leaving him confused and troubled (see Genesis 41:1-8). After calling for his wise men and magicians and sharing his dreams, he found no help. His cupbearer suddenly remembered Joseph's dream interpretation and commanded him to Pharaoh. Joseph was quickly summoned, and after making himself presentable for

meeting Egypt's leader, he was escorted into his presence. When Pharaoh told Joseph he'd heard of his ability

to interpret dreams, the young Hebrew quickly shifted the focus: "I cannot do it", he said, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires" (vs. 16 NIV).

Pharaoh detailed the dreams: seven gaunt and ugly cows consuming seven sleek and robust ones, and then seven spindly heads of grain swallowing seven full and healthy ones.

Joseph listened, and again acknowledged his Lord by saying, "God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do." He explained the prophetic implications

of the dreams: "Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land" (vs. 28-30).

Joseph's introductory message seems to follow the "good news and bad news" way of presenting information. But even though a severe famine was coming, God, speaking through His servant, was showing gracious favor to allow for proper planning.

As the

Egyptian king and the other hearers probably sat in stunned, fearful silence, Joseph offered hope with his far-reaching plan: "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance" (vs. 34). The bounty would be stored to use during the coming economic dearth.

Note the words "discerning" and

"wise" in verse 33. The first indicates someone with true insight; the second, someone with sharp administrative skills. Pharaoh realized this young man who stood before him possessed these attributes: "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" (vs. 37)

Things begin to happen rapidly. Pharaoh exalted Joseph to a position of high leadership and trust, giving him charge of the whole land of Egypt" (vs. 41). At age 30, he began his effective work as overseer, collecting grain to store in cities throughout Egypt. So much was collected, Joseph "stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure."

We all face hard times. When they come, we're wise to emulate Joseph's action - acknowledging God at the onset. He will see us through. In God's redemptive plan, Joseph endured some difficult times. However, the refining crucible prepared a godly, capable leader when such was desperately needed.

When facing difficulties, we can find strength in Scriptures such as Joshua 1:9: "Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." It's been said that when we find that God is all we have, we'll see He's all we need.

*Maniscalco is a member of Lemoyne Boulevard Church in Biloxi.*

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Evansville Church, Coldwater:** Homecoming, Nov. 9; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Bernette Fielder,

speaker; In-House, music.

► **Highland Church, Crystal Springs:** Homecoming, Nov. 9; service, 10:30 a.m., followed

by covered dish meal; Terry Dent, speaker; Josh Berry, music; David Patterson, pastor.

► **Christ Church, Greenwood:** Revival, Nov. 9 - 12; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6

p.m., followed by fellowship and snacks; Mon. - Wed., supper, 5:30 p.m.; services, 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Barry Bouchillon, music.

► **Grace Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Nov. 9 - 12; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.;

Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Winstead, speaker; Chester Carlisle, pastor.

► **Horseshoe Church, Tchula:** Homecoming, Nov. 9; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert Self, speaker; Mike Steen, pastor.

## Just for the Record



The Joy Club of **FAITH CHURCH, WEST POINT**, recently toured Shiloh battlefield in Shiloh, Tenn. Ben Yarber, pastor.



**ROLLING CREEK CHURCH, QUITMAN**, honored pastor Ronnie Cooper with a special service and reception for Pastor Appreciation Month. He has served 10 1/2 years at Rolling Fork and was presented a gift and plaque.



Jeremy Clearman, pastor of **GOODWATER CHURCH, MEEHAN**, was presented a gift and card in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month. Shown are Clearman and deacon chairman Robert Taylor.



The women of **EAST MOSS POINT CHURCH, MOSS POINT**, held a Fall Friendship luncheon recently, with approximately 60 guests. Lanette Coleman sang and shared about her mission trip to Brazil. Shown are the hostesses for the event.



**FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD**, Women of Grace held a Safari Tea Party for their girls, mothers, and grandmothers.



The youth of **VAIDEN CHURCH, VAIDEN**, led the Sunday night service. John Staszefski, youth pastor.



**FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, celebrated its 175th anniversary in October with four Sundays of special services, guest speakers, and events. Shown is pastor Matt Buckles, former pastor Gordon Sansing, and former minister of education and retired IMB missionary Larry Cox.



**BETHEL CHURCH, LINCOLN COUNTY ASSOCIATION**, held a senior adult day and recognition Oct. 26. The 33 senior adults were recognized with their families and had a catered lunch. Mike Moak, speaker.